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SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR DS/IP/RD/SCA, DS/DSS/ITA, CA AND SA/INS
NEW DELHI FOR RSO AND LEGAL ATTACHE'

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ASEC CASC PTER
SUBJECT: EMBASSY COLOMBO EAC MEETS ON 11/28/2008 RE MUMBAI
ATTACKS

REF: A. DS/TIA/ITA EMAIL TO SCA REGIONAL SECURITY
OFFICERS DATED 11/27/08
1B. COLOMBO 1046

11. (SBU) Summary: AmEmbassy Colombo convened an Emergency Action Committee (EAC) meeting on November 28, 2008. The EAC discussed post's security posture in light of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India on November 27. The EAC concurred that there was no threat information indicating that the incidents in Mumbai would directly affect the security posture for the official and expatriate American communities in Sri Lanka. The EAC did not recommend any changes or upgrades to post's security posture. End summary.

12. (SBU) On November 28, 2008, AmEmbassy Colombo convened a meeting of the core EAC. Present for the meeting were the Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Mission, Regional Security Officer, Regional Affairs Officer, Political Officer, Economic Officer, Management Officer, Consular Officer, Public Affairs Officer, USAID Director's designate, Defense Attache', and Office of Defense Cooperation Chief. The agenda item for the meeting was the security posture for the official and expatriate American communities in light of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

13. (SBU) Even as the EAC met, events were still unfolding in Mumbai. Some attackers were still at large and holding hostages. Therefore, the EAC felt that it was too early to accurately determine the perpetrators' motives. However, all available information indicated that the perpetrators were members of an Islamic extremist group. The EAC concurred that there was no information available from EAC members' various GSL sources, or from USG sources, that would indicate a threat to the American official and expatriate communities from sympathetic Islamic extremist groups. The EAC noted that Sri Lanka security services were already on high alert, expecting Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to conduct attacks in the South, in reprisal for the GSL's military successes in the LTTE-controlled "Wanni" in Northern Province (ref B). The Chancery and American Center compounds, as well as many official USG residences and five-star hotels, are located within or near high security zones in which GSL security services intensely scrutinize, and often search, pedestrians and vehicles transiting these zones. The EAC concurred that due to the lack of a direct threat to Americans (from either LTTE or Islamic extremist groups), and the intense security measures already in place in and around Colombo, additional warnings or security measures were not required.

14. (U) Post will continue to monitor the security environment and report further developments, if any, septel. POC for this message is RSO Michael V. Perkins, who may be contacted at 94.11.249.8885, 94.11.249.8888 (MSG Post 1 after regular business hours), or via the classified and unclassified email

systems.
Blake